



COPRA CHRONICLE

Issued by and for the City of Phoenix Retirees Association
Your advocate in pension and insurance matters

December 2022

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 9

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"Membership is our Strength" **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership for COPRA is \$12 per year or \$50.00 for 5 years. If you have changed your address, email address or phone number, or have any questions about dues payments, please contact Mary Jo Slunder.

Mary Jo can be reached by: telephone at 602-206-5515, or by email at copra.members@gmail.com

Mail payments to:
COPRA
PO Box 2464
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

PayPal Payments:
You can send in dues via PayPal. Use our email address phoenixcopra@gmail.com from your account.

BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT AFFIDAVITS - COMING FEBRUARY 2023

COPERS and the City of Phoenix take protecting the delivery of your monthly benefit and your personal information seriously. Confirming that we can reach you to deliver and protect your benefits and personal information takes many forms. One form that many retirees recognize is COPERS' yearly review of pensioners. All members receive a Benefits Entitlement Affidavit once every three years based on an alpha designation. This document must be notarized and returned to COPERS to avoid interruption to your monthly payments.

2023 – Last names beginning N - Z

2024 – Last names beginning A – F

2025 – Last names beginning G – M

COPERS asks that you please review the information, complete the form, and return it to the COPERS office in the enclosed self-addressed envelope as quickly as possible. Failure to respond timely to the request will result in a suspension of benefits until a response is received.

Did you know COPERS offers free notary services to all retirees? An appointment is required. Simply call our office at (602) 534-4400 to schedule an appointment. Notary attestations are also available through many different providers such as financial institutions and private vendors. The Arizona Secretary of State has a referral website to find a notary in your service area: <https://azsos.gov/search/node/notary%20search>

COPRA MEMBER SURVEY UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who responded to our Member Survey! We received more than 400 completed surveys, with many of them coming through the U.S. mail. We have begun compiling results from the mailed responses to add to the electronic responses that have already been tabulated. Many of you also added helpful comments and suggestions. We are reviewing them to see which ones are most important to our members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rob Sweeney

'Tis the Season! Yes, okay...but from where did the apostrophe come? Laziness? Efficiency? Dialect? Perhaps we don't need to look to the Rosetta Stone for answers.

The English language is tricky. If you capitalize the 'P' in polish you have a completely different word. Sometimes a benign term in the United States is a rude term in England or elsewhere. Yet, we are speaking the same language, more or less. It gets more complicated when translating to a completely different culture.

I was fortunate to represent the city of Phoenix on a trip to Chengdu, China, one of our Sister Cities. The trip was to help share technology and government practices with the Chengdu government. While out to dinner one night with our collective contingent of folks, we were served a wonderful array of food on a round platter that moved in a circular motion in the middle of the table. We know this in the United

States as a, 'Lazy Susan.' Why? I have NO IDEA! But lazy or not, it is an efficient way by which guests can enjoy a meal. My colleague and I asked our Chengdu interpreter what they call the device in the center of the table. We shared our understanding of the device. Puzzled, they looked at us and said they refer to it as, 'the circular moving table!' Ah yes, Lazy Susan.

The Chinese do have an eloquent, and perhaps literal way of explaining things. In the United States it is common to see, 'Keep off the Grass!' signs. While in Chengdu, we saw, 'Please Allow Earth to Display Her Beauty' as a deterrent to walking on the grass.

My oldest daughter married a wonderful fellow from New Zealand. They live there now, along with their son and dog. New Zealanders refer to themselves as Kiwis. This too can be a bit confusing: referring to one's self as a small, flightless bird or a piece of fruit? Neither! A Kiwi (aka New Zealander).

My first interaction with my daughter's future husband occurred in my living room in Phoenix on his first trip to the United States. I knew he liked beer, so I filled up a couple of growlers from a local brewpub that I thought he would like. When I arrived home I announced, 'I filled up a couple of growlers on the way home!' My future son-in-law was snickering on the couch hearing my announcement. I cannot define the term here, but let me tell you the term growler as we know it in the USA is not what they know it as in New Zealand! We still laugh about that moment.

I assumed you all enjoyed a gobbler for Thanksgiving? In New Zealand, that is a reference for the garbage disposal. If you visit Lynx Lake in Prescott, you may push the boat out. In New Zealand, that is a reference to eating too much (like at Thanksgiving)! In New Zealand the term, 'sweet as' is not an adjective, like sweet as pie! When used in New Zealand, it sounds like a fragmented sentence. Sweet as. You know: no problem; thank you; no worries. Language is supposed to help us communicate, not to complicate!

'Tis the Season = It's the Season = It is the Season. Old English put the apostrophe to replace the first 'I', while we now use it to replace the second, 'I'. So, let's put it into perspective. It is the season to celebrate with family. It is the season to be generous with our time and talents. It is the season to help those in need. It is the season to be kind and thoughtful. It is the season to give and receive. It is the season! What do you want to make of it?

I wish you all a warm, happy, and healthy holiday season - Rob

END OF THE YEAR "TO DO" LIST

By CJHarris | Dec 21, 2017 |

It's the END of another year! Traffic is heavier. Stores are more full. Restaurant "To Go Orders" are high. Delivery companies (USPS, UPS, FedEx, etc.) are racking up the miles. And the gyms are less full. Office Christmas and Holiday parties are in high demand. Social media is abuzz with pictures of desserts, Christmas trees, Christmas lights...and on and on. One of the things that it's also a great time to do is – work through our End of the Year list. Have you ever wondered what you need to do before the clock hits Midnight on December 31? I have. Often. So a few years ago, I started getting into a rhythm of things that I should do every December. Here's my random list. What would you add to my list?

Great (and random) things to do for the next few days, until the new year hits:

(Continued on page 4)

HOLIDAY CYBERSECURITY TIPS

The holidays can be a hectic time of year – buying gifts online, making travel arrangements and wanting to give back to charitable organizations. It is also a busy time for cybercriminals who are trying to take advantage of you. But you can fight back against thieves and better protect your personal information by utilizing some or all the following tips.

Update Software and Download Latest Security Patches

Before departure, check your devices are up to date. You should also enable automatic updates, especially if you forget to download them manually. This regularly scans and downloads the latest updates as you travel, maximizing your cyber security.

Create a Data Backup for All Devices

What's worse than losing your devices? Losing documents, photos, videos, and other stored data. Creating a data backup before you leave is an easy way to save important files to the cloud or external memory so they're safe even if your devices get stolen, damaged, or misplaced.

Change Your Passwords and Enable Two-Factor Authentication

If you don't change your passwords every three months, do it before leaving on vacation. For greater protection, enable multiple-factor authentication. Even if hackers manage to guess your password, the authenticator blocks them as only you can access it.

Turn On "Find My Phone" Settings

Losing your device is one of the most stressful experiences, whether you misplace it or have it stolen. Luckily, mobile devices come with a handy "Find my phone" feature letting you pinpoint the location of your phone or tablet.

Disable Location Services When You Don't Need It

Navigation often makes it easy for hackers to spy on your location. This applies even to saved locations in your photo gallery. Use your GPS when navigating unknown territory and turn it off when you don't need it. You should also refrain from "checking in" to restaurants, bars, hotels, beaches, and other places you visit on Facebook and social media.

Use Credit Cards or PayPal to Complete Purchases

The holidays give malicious actors a great opportunity to trick you into purchasing highly discounted items without sending them to you. To avoid disappointment, use credit cards, PayPal, Klarna, or another form of secure payment. These companies let you pay using credit, which you pay off over time. However, if you don't receive the item or something goes wrong, contact the credit provider and ask them to remove the charge — so you won't lose your money.

Spot Phishing Messages and Avoid Scams

Phishing messages can be easily mixed in with holiday marketing emails, so you need to learn how to spot a fake email, text, or phone call quickly. Before you click: watch out for spelling mistakes or random capitalization in the middle of a word and verify it came from a real company by looking up its contact details. Additionally, even if your phone call shows a Caller ID, refrain from sharing your details over the phone.

Shop From Verified and Trusted Online Retailers

When shopping online, pay attention to URLs. Secure websites have "*https://*" at the front, which means the platform protects you with encryption. "*Http://*" is not the same thing — the "*s*" indicates a site's security. Be sure to also scan the URL for spelling changes and errors.

Create New Shopping Accounts Using Different Credentials

When you're buying from a new website, create a new account using a separate email and a unique password. Don't repeat your login details from other sites. This stops a cybercriminal from logging into all of your accounts when they get details for one.

Check Your Bank Accounts Regularly

Even if you don't think it's a scam, make it a habit to check your outgoing payments regularly. It can be extremely difficult to spot anything malicious, yet you may hand your payment details into the wrong hands. Checking for suspicious withdrawals helps stop scammers from stealing money from your bank account before it's all gone.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Name	Date of Death	Department
Deborah Abele	08/19/2022	
Thomas D. Renolds	09/18/2022	Police
Thomas Ruiz	10/08/2022	Public Works
David Rivera	10/14/2022	Water Services
Charmaine M. Ashworth	10/16/2022	Police
Robert R. Erickson	10/16/2022	Aviation
Donna Overstreet	10/21/2022	Equal Opportunity
Adrienne Burd	10/24/2022	Human Services
Robert J. Henley	10/24/2022	Water Services
Donna Byxbe	10/28/2022	Water Services
Mary O'Connell	10/28/2022	Police
Donald E. Abbott	10/29/2022	Fire
Guillermo E. Trujillo	10/30/2022	
David V. Aros	11/02/2022	Water Services
Eli Koss	11/03/2022	Finance
Martha V. Lester	11/07/2022	Human Services

(Those on the list who are surviving spouses will have the retiree's name in parentheses after the deceased's name.)

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR LIBRARIAN

By Lee Franklin | Phoenix Public Library |

If you don't already have a Phoenix Public Library card, consider getting what could be one of the best cards to have in your wallet! What makes a library card such an asset? If you're a book lover like we are, you'll have access to tons of books at one of our 17 locations or you can download [eBooks](#) and [eAudiobooks](#)...in addition to books, you can read [newspapers and magazines](#), visit PressReader to peruse for over 7,000 newspapers and magazines from 100 countries, or research something on Consumer Reports, or find a magazine on Flipster. [Stream movies and programs](#), with kanopy or hoopla. Make a playlist, stream your musical favorites or discover a new artist with [online music](#) options. Take an [online course](#) through Master Class or Universal Class. Pick up a new hobby or discover a great recipe with our [eDIY resources](#) such as Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center and AtoZ World Food. Research your family history with [ancestry and HeritageQuest](#). Looking for things to do while also stretching your budget? Consider starting a garden with seeds from our [Seed Library](#) or visit a Phoenix art/cultural institution with a [Culture Pass](#). Phoenix Public Library cards are available FREE to Maricopa County residents. Visit any [Phoenix Public Library location](#) or phoenixpubliclibrary.org to get started.

END OF THE YEAR "TO DO" LIST (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 2)

- Clean out your closets
- Clean out your email inbox
- Delete unnecessary Apps on your phone
- Scan, declutter your office
- Work through your contacts, update information, delete old information, delete unnecessary contacts
- Get your home office / bills / etc organized
- Clean up your social media accounts, etc.
- Make sure your tax and financial details are together
- WRITE down and write out your goals
- If you're married, go over any financial details and updates since your last budget meeting
- Make a list of the books you want to read
- Clean out your car (actually get it deep cleaned if necessary)
- Clean out your voicemail and text message (Raise your hands if you're horrible with VM and Text!)
- Take clothes and big blankets to the cleaners OR get clothes that you've left at the cleaners!
- Make sure all of your important docs are organized (passports, insurances, birth records, etc.)

APS ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE



Saturday, December 3, 2022

Parade Starts at 7 p.m.

Starting location:
Central Ave. and Montebello Ave.

Ending location:
7th St. and Indian School Rd.

*Parade run-time varies

Day of Parade Road Closures - 5 to 11 p.m
Central Ave: Bethany Home to Camelback
Camelback Rd.: 1st Ave. to 7th St.
7th St.: Indian School Rd. to Osborn Rd.

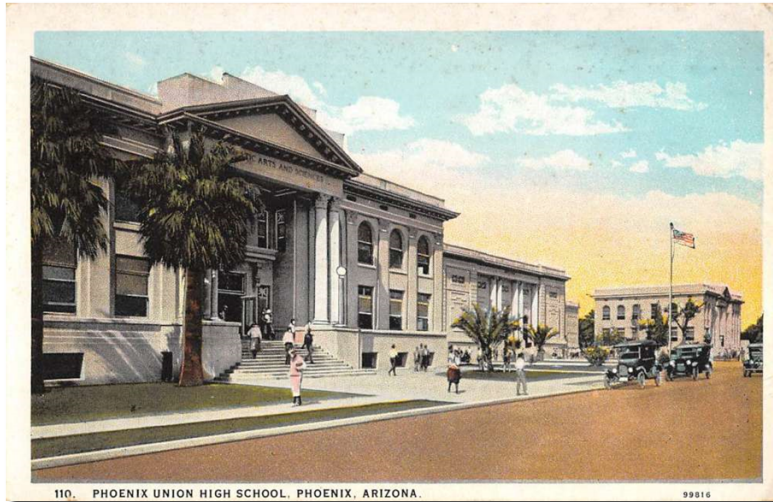
NEW RETIREES (OCTOBER)

Ricardo Anchondo	Public Works	Dane Laurence	Public Works
Laura Artusio	Library	Angel Lozada	Aviation
Steven Baxter	Parks & Recreation	Patricia Martin	Human Services
Daniel Bedoya	Public Works	Ernie Martinez	Aviation
Apolinar Bencomo	Parks & Recreation.	Louie Martinez	Parks & Recreation
Douglas Benish	Water Services	Michael Martinez	Public Works
Keith Brown	Water Services	Clydean McKinney	Parks & Recreation
Ronda Buker	Information Technology Ser	John Melisko	Municipal Court
Carlissa Butler	Street Transportation	Timothy Merritt	Phoenix Convention Center
Arthur Canez	Aviation	Melody Moss	Street Transportation
Francisco Carbajal	Aviation	Michael Nydes	Parks & Recreation
Keith Cullers	Library	John Ponio	Public Works
Shirley Davis	Aviation	Jose Rivera	Phoenix Convention Center
Larry DeMuth	Aviation	Karla Roberts	Fire
William Emerson	Law	Christine Romo	Parks & Recreation
Kelly Emfinger	Fire	Anthony Sambuco	Water Services
Susan Everett	Human Resources	William Seifried	Public Works
Steven Garcia	Street Transportation	Chris Shaheen	Parks & Recreation
Salvador Gonzalez	Planning & Development	Pam Shim	Information Technology Ser
Virginia Gonzalez	Aviation	Danny Silvas	Public Works
Debbie Grant	City Council	Laurie Smith	Street Transportation
Alma Hernandez	Water Services	Irene Spielman	City Clerk
Eric Keel	Street Transportation	Bruce Temple	Municipal Court
Anna Koch	Street Transportation	Reyna Valenzuela	Equal Opportunity
Bruce Kousky	Parks & Recreation		

NEW MEMBERS

Debbie P. Grant	City Council	John Melisko	Parks & Recreation
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POSTCARD FROM THE PAST



This post card of Phoenix Union High School (PUHS) dates back to around 1920. The buildings seen here from left to right are the Domestic Arts and Sciences Building, Auditorium, and Science Hall.

PUHS was founded in 1897 when voters passed a bond to purchase the Churchill Mansion at 5th Avenue and Van Buren Street and convert it into a high school. The student body rapidly grew from 90 students to a peak of 6,230 students in 1964. In all, there were nine buildings on its 18-acre campus.

PUHS closed in 1982 due to declining enrollment. Following its closure, portions of the campus were used by Phoenix Municipal Court and Water Services Department until

City Hall and Municipal Court Building were built on Washington Street. The school site is now home to the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix.

These three buildings received historic landmark designation in 2003 and are all that is left of the original campus. They now serve as facilities for the Phoenix Union Alumni Association and the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy.

Source:

Phoenix Union High School, Wikipedia, Updated 3 August 2022. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoenix_Union_High_School#:~:text=8%20External%20links-,History,floor%20of%20an%20elementary%20school.

Phoenix Union High School District History, Phoenix Union PXU High School District. <https://www.pxu.org/Page/194>

PUMPKIN SPICE COOKIES

This delicious pumpkin spice cookie recipe was submitted by COPRA board member Lou Matamoros. If you have a recipe you would like to share, submit it to at.copra@gmail.com.

Ingredients:

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese (softened)
- ¼ cup butter (softened)
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 (15.25 ounce) box spice cake mix
- ¼ cup of powder cup sugar for sprinkling on top of cookies (cooled)

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Combine the cream cheese, butter and pumpkin puree with handheld mixer. Do this until you have a cream consistency.
- Add the cake mix until it well combined and thick
- Scoop heaping tablespoons (1 ½) on parchment paper.
- Bake for 8 to 10 minutes until edges are set
- Remove from oven and let them cool
- Sprinkle powder sugar over the cooled cookies
- If you want a perfect circle, use a jar over the cookies and shake in a circular motion

YOUR E-MAIL IS YOUR ENTRY

As you all know, receiving the COPRA Chronicle by email significantly defrays the printing and postage costs for COPRA. An added benefit is that if there is any important information that COPRA wants to send you, we have your email address on file and can transmit to you in a timely fashion.

In order to encourage our COPRA members to receive the Chronicle by email, each month we will randomly select one member who receives their Chronicle by email and that member will receive a \$25 gift certificate to a grocery store (Fry's or Safeway).

The December winner is **Ernest Martinez**.
CONGRATULATIONS Ernest!

If we already have your email address, you are automatically entered!
If you do not receive the Chronicle by email, do so NOW! You can provide your email to Mary Jo Slunder at copra.members@gmail.com. She can also be reached by phone at 602-206-5515.

Sign up now!



*"Give thanks
for a little,
and you will
find a lot"*

—Hausa Proverb

Disclaimer

All articles are for informational purposes and not intended to be a substitute for professional, legal, financial or medical advice. Consult an attorney or other professional what is best for your situation. COPRA expressly disclaims and denies liability for any decisions based on the information presented.

COPRA website.....	www.phoenixcopra.com
COPERS website.....	www.phoenix.gov/copers
COPMEA website.....	www.copmea.com
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Human Resources - Benefits Section	(602) 262-4777
COPMEA.....	(602) 262-6858

2022 COPRA BOARD

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Chronicle Article Deadline

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting articles for the Chronicle is the **20th day of the month** before you want the article to appear. Any member may submit material for publication, but the Editor determines what will appear in the final copy based on suitability and available space.

This is your Chronicle. Help us by submitting articles of general interest. Tell us about yourself, your family, a trip you've taken or an interesting hobby you have. Suggestions are always welcomed.

E-mail to: COPRAnewsletter@gmail.com

Or mail to: Mary Dysinger Franklin, 6208 E Desert Cove Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

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PO Box 2464
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340



HAPPY
Holidays!

2022 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington Activity Center
2240 W. Citrus Way
Phoenix, AZ

December 2, 2022 at 11:30 am - Holiday Party and Annual Meeting

Board meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the Month
Except for June, July and August.